



# REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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## LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER – DECEMBER 2017 UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.40 billion pounds in December, up slightly from the 4.40 billion pounds produced in December 2016.

**Beef production**, at 2.15 billion pounds, was 1 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.58 million head, down 1 percent from December 2016. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 1,379 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 6.6 million pounds, 4 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 46,400 head, down 5 percent from December 2016. The average live weight was up 5 pounds from last year, at 245 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 2.23 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 10.5 million head, down slightly from December 2016. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 286 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 12.8 million pounds, was down 2 percent from December 2016. Sheep slaughter totaled 188,100 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

**January to December 2017 commercial red meat production** was 52.0 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2016. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 1 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

For a full copy of the *Livestock Slaughter* report please visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov). For state specific questions please contact:

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